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LETTER DATED 7 JUNE 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TOGO TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the joint communiqué issued on the occasion of the visit, on 4 and 5 June 1999, of Mr. Charles G. Taylor, President of the Republic of Liberia, to Mr. Gnassingbé Eyadéma, President of the Togolese Republic and current Chairman of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

In particular, I should like to draw your attention to paragraphs 11 and 19 of the communiqué, concerning peacemaking efforts in Sierra Leone. I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Roland Y. KPOTSRA

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Annex

Joint communiqué

1. Within the framework of the excellent relations between Togo and Liberia and at the invitation of his friend and colleague Mr. Gnassingbé Eyadéma, President of the Togolese Republic, Mr. Charles Ghankay Taylor, President of the Republic of Liberia, visited Kara on 4 and 5 June 1999.

2. The visit afforded the two Heads of State an opportunity to review bilateral, subregional and regional issues of common interest.

3. Concerning bilateral issues, President Eyadéma and President Taylor expressed satisfaction at the excellent relations of friendship, brotherhood, cooperation and solidarity between their two countries and decided to work to strengthen those relations at all levels, especially in the political, economic, commercial and cultural spheres, in the interest of their respective peoples.

4. The two Presidents exchanged information on the socio-political situation in their respective countries. They noted with satisfaction the positive developments taking place in each of their countries and welcomed the climate of peace and stability prevailing in them, which is conducive to their harmonious, sustained development.

5. Turning to the subregional situation, the two Heads of State, convinced that there can be no viable, sustainable development without peace, security and stability, reiterated the need to do everything possible to turn the West African subregion into a zone of peace.

6. They emphasized, in this connection, that any crisis or conflict arising in one country of the subregion has consequences for the subregion as a whole and causes untold human suffering, displaces populations and threatens economic and social development.

7. The two Heads of State reaffirmed that everyone has a duty to contribute at all times to the search for peace and stability in the subregion. They agreed to pursue efforts to build ECOWAS peacekeeping capacities and acknowledged the urgent need to put in place effective subregional mechanisms for conflict prevention, management and resolution and the maintenance of peace and security.

8. The two Presidents praised ECOWAS efforts to find a peaceful, durable solution to the crises in Guinea-Bissau and Sierra Leone.

9. They particularly discussed the evolution of the situation in Sierra Leone and reviewed the status of the ongoing talks aimed at finding a lasting, comprehensive solution to the grave crisis affecting that country for nearly a decade.

10. President Taylor paid a warm tribute to President Eyadéma, in his capacity as current Chairman of ECOWAS, for his unwavering commitment to peace, security

and stability in the subregion and his initiatives and actions aimed at bringing about national reconciliation in Guinea-Bissau and Sierra Leone.

11. President Taylor assured the current Chairman of ECOWAS of his readiness further to support the process of dialogue and negotiation aimed at achieving lasting peace and reconciliation in Sierra Leone.

12. President Eyadéma welcomed President Taylor's offer of support and thanked him for his constant demonstrations of subregional solidarity and for his support for a negotiated solution to the conflict in Sierra Leone.

13. President Eyadéma also commended President Taylor for his recent decision to destroy the arms and ammunition surrendered by the former warring factions during the disarmament process in Liberia.

14. The two statesmen agreed that the 26 July 1999 arms destruction ceremony will be organized jointly by the Government of Liberia and ECOWAS.

15. The two Heads of State warmly welcomed the signing, on 18 May 1999 in Lomé, of the ceasefire agreement between the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone and the Revolutionary United Front of Sierra Leone and expressed satisfaction at the launching, on 25 May 1999 in Togo, of a dialogue among Sierra Leoneans.

16. The two Heads of State appealed to States, whether ECOWAS members or not, to refrain from supplying the parties to the conflict in Sierra Leone with arms, ammunition, mercenaries or other forms of logistical support.

17. They pledged unconditional support for the Sierra Leone peace process, called on the parties to the conflict to show flexibility and a spirit of compromise and conciliation and expressed the fervent hope that the negotiations would lead to an early, comprehensive and lasting settlement of the crisis.

18. The two Heads of State expressed their full appreciation to the international community for its support and multiform assistance to the peace process in Sierra Leone and emphasized the importance of continuing such support and assistance at all levels with a view to the lasting return of peace and stability and the reconstruction of that ravaged country.

19. The two Presidents commended the spirit of solidarity shown by Sierra Leone's neighbours in taking in hundreds of thousands of refugees from that country, and appealed to the international community to provide them urgently with the necessary assistance to meet the needs created by that situation.

20. Turning to the situation in Africa as a whole, the two Presidents deplored the persistence of hotbeds of tension and war on the continent, notably in Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Republic of the Congo and the Horn of Africa. They urged the parties to the various conflicts to settle their differences peacefully, through dialogue and consultation, in order to spare their peoples further suffering and allow them to mobilize their resources for the increasingly pressing tasks of development.

21. In this context, they welcomed the willingness of the parties to the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to begin a process of peaceful settlement of their differences, and urged the parties to the other conflicts in Africa to follow suit.

22. Turning to international issues, the two Heads of State expressed profound concern at the persistence of economic, commercial and financial imbalances between the countries of the South and the North.

23. They emphasized the pressing need for greater and more effective international solidarity and the urgent need to create a more just and more equitable economic environment based on a mutually beneficial partnership.

24. In this connection, they welcomed the recent holding in Accra of the Fifth African-African American Summit designed to strengthen cooperation and partnership between the African continent and the African-American diaspora.

25. At the end of his visit to Togo, President Taylor expressed to his friend and colleague President Eyadéma and to the Government and people of Togo his heartfelt gratitude for the warm, fraternal and truly African welcome extended to him and to the delegation accompanying him.

26. President Taylor invited President Eyadéma to visit Liberia and this invitation was accepted with pleasure. The date of the visit will be agreed through the diplomatic channel.

27. During their talks, which took place in a cordial and friendly atmosphere, the two Heads of State were accompanied by the following persons:

On the Liberian side:

- Chief Cyril Allen, General Secretary, National Patriotic Party of Liberia;
- The Honourable Monie R. Captan, Minister for Foreign Affairs;
- The Honourable Daniel Chea, Minister for National Defence;
- The Honourable Tambakai Jangaba, Presidential Adviser on National Security;
- The Honourable Joe W. Mulbah, Minister for Information, Culture and Tourism;
- The Honourable Ernest Eastman, Director, Institute for Strategic Studies;
- The Honourable D. Musuleng Cooper, former Minister for Foreign Affairs, Presidential Adviser on Education;
- Mr. Romeo Horton, eminent person;

- The Honourable Lewis G. Brown, Political Adviser to the President of the Republic.

On the Togolese side:

- H.E. Mr. Dahuku Pere, President of the National Assembly;
- H.E. Mr. Barry Moussa Barque, Minister of State for Finance and Privatization;
- H.E. Mr. Joseph Kokou Koffigoh, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation;
- Brigadier-General Séyi Memene, Minister for the Interior and Security;
- Mr. Tchamdja Andjo, Minister for Mines, Energy, Post and Telecommunications;
- Mr. Comla Kadje, Minister for Transport and Water Resources;
- Mr. Michel Essobèheyi Kambia, Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries;
- Mr. Sinféitchéou Pre, Minister for Technical Education, Vocational Training and Cottage Industry;
- Ms. Mabadina Philomène Adaoutema, Minister for Social Affairs, National Solidarity and Advancement of Women;
- Mr. Tcha-Gouni Ati-Atcha, Minister-Delegate to the Prime Minister for National and Regional Development.

Done at Pya on 5 June 1999

For the Republic of Liberia:

(Signed) Charles Ghankay TAYLOR
President of the Republic

For the Togolese Republic:

Gnassingbé EYADEMA
President of the Republic